



Global Dialogue Series

Letters to the Editor

My Life and Sexuality: Role of Coming Out in Ghanaian Africa

Dear Editor,

I am Emmanuel from Ghana. Thirty-one years and am gay. I was raised and brought up from a Christian home; it's made to believe that homosexuality is a sin and its western culture and culturally unacceptable in Ghana (Taboo).

Since my childhood life (at the age of 7years), I discovered that I am only attracted to the same sex. I have battled with my sexuality and sexual orientation just because others behave differently in my community while I do otherwise.

In addition, I live in a country where being gay is a crime that can end you up in jail this scares me more.

As I grew up, I have faced different forms of violence and discrimination from family and friends, school and in public places, where it is illegal to BE YOU and criminal to LOVE WHO YOU WANT, which has affected me emotionally and psychologically.

At the age of 18 years, I came out to my family. Coming out to my family ended up dis-owning, and all the benefits I was entitled to be cut down.

Sincerely Yours
Emmanuel Mensah Jacobs
Ghana, Africa
30th May 2019